AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising an on-line client, print server and printer, as well as an off-line finishing device, wherein the print server includes:

a first memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and of the off-line finishing device as well as information regarding options installed thereon;

a receiver for receiving from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics for printing to be executed;

a sorter for, based on the information regarding the specifications and installed options that is stored in the first memory, separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiver into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the off-line finishing device;

a setting unit for setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated by the sorter and assigned to the on-line printer; and

a creating unit for creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated by the sorter and assigned to the off-line finishing device.

2. (Previously Presented) A printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print server further includes a transmitter for transmitting to the on-line printer the data pertaining to the finishing device job ticket created by the creating unit so as to print the finishing device job ticket.

3. (Previously Presented) A printing system as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an on-line scanner, and wherein the print server further includes:

a second memory for storing job information and user information included in the job ticket received by the receiver;

a reader for reading the job information from the data obtained by reading via the scanner the finishing device job ticket printed by the on-line printer; and

a notifier for calling the user information stored in the second memory based on the job information read by the reader and notifying the client of job completion based on the user information.

4. (Previously Presented) A print server to be used in a printing system including an on-line client, print server and printer, as well as an off-line finishing device, the print server comprising:

a first memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and of the off-line finishing device as well as information regarding options installed thereon;

a receiver for receiving from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics for printing to be executed;

a sorter for, based on the information regarding the specifications and installed options that is stored in the first memory, separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiver into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the off-line finishing device;

a setter for setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated by the sorter and assigned to the on-line printer; and

a creating unit for creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated by the sorter and assigned to the off-line finishing device.

5. (Previously Presented) A print server as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting to the on-line printer the data pertaining to the finishing device job ticket created by the creating unit so as to print the finishing device job ticket.

6. (Previously Presented) A print server as claimed in claim 5, wherein the printing system further includes an on-line scanner, and the print server further comprises:

a second memory for storing job information and user information included in the job ticket received by the receiver;

a reader for reading the job information from the data obtained by reading via the scanner the finishing device job ticket printed by the on-line printer; and

a notifying unit for calling the user information stored in the second memory based on the job information read by the reader and notifying the client of job completion based on the user information.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a computer program to be used in a printing system which includes an on-line client and printer as well as an off-line finishing device, and which executes a print job based on a job ticket including at least finishing specifics for printing to be executed, the computer program causing a computer to execute processing comprising the steps of:

receiving the job ticket from the client;

separating the finishing specifics included in the received job ticket into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the off-line finishing device, based on information regarding specifications and installed options of the on-line printer and finishing device that is stored in a first memory;

setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated and assigned to the on-line printer; and

creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated and assigned to the off-line finishing device.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a computer program as claimed in claim 7, the processing further comprising a step of transmitting to the on-line printer the created data pertaining to the finishing device job ticket so as to print the finishing device job ticket.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a computer program as claimed in claim 8, wherein the printing system further includes an on-line scanner, and the processing further comprising the steps of:

storing job information and user information included in the received job ticket into a second memory;

reading the job information from the data obtained by reading the finishing device job ticket printed by the on-line printer; and

calling the user information stored in the second memory based on the read job information and notifying the client of job completion based on the user information.

10. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising an on-line client, print server and printer, and an off-line finishing device, wherein the print server includes:

a memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and the off-line finishing device; and

a processor that separates finishing specifics included in a received job ticket into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the off-line finishing device, based on the specifications stored in said memory, provides the on-line printer with the parameters for the separated finishing specifics to be performed by the on-line printer, and generates a job ticket that includes the separated finishing specifics to be performed by the off-line finishing device.

11. (Previously Presented) A printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the print server further transmits to the on-line printer the data pertaining to the job ticket generated by the processor to print the finishing device job ticket.

12. (Previously Presented) A printing system as claimed in claim 11, further comprising an on-line scanner, and wherein the print server further includes:

a memory for storing job information and user information included in the received job ticket;

and wherein said processor reads job information input by the scanner from the job ticket printed by the on-line printer, retrieves the user information stored in said memory based on the job information input by the scanner, and notifies the client of job completion based on the user information.

13. (Previously Presented) A print server to be used in a printing system including an on-line client, print server and printer, and an off-line finishing device, the print server comprising:

a memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and the off-line finishing device; and

a processor that separates finishing specifics included in a received job ticket into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the off-line finishing device, based on the specifications stored in said memory, provides the on-line printer with the parameters for the separated finishing specifics to be performed by the on-line printer, and generates a job ticket that includes the separated finishing specifics to be performed by the off-line finishing device.

14. (Previously Presented) A print server as claimed in claim 13, wherein the print server further transmits to the on-line printer the data pertaining to the job ticket generated by the processor to print the finishing device job ticket.

15. (Previously Presented) A print server as claimed in claim 14, wherein the printing system further includes an on-line scanner, and the print server further comprises:

a memory for storing job information and user information included in the received job ticket;

and wherein said processor reads job information input by the scanner from the job ticket printed by the on-line printer, retrieves the user information stored in said memory based on the job information input by the scanner, and notifies the client of job completion based on the user information.

16. (Previously Presented) A print server to be used in a printing system including a client, the print server, a printer on which at least one finishing option is installed, and a finishing device that is separately provided from the printer, comprising:

a first memory section that stores information on the specifications of the printer, the finisher, and the at least one finishing option installed on the printer;

a receiving section that receives from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics for printing to be executed; and

a control section that separates, based on the information on the specifications of the printer, the finishing device, and the at least one finishing option installed on the printer that is stored in the first memory section, the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiving section into a first group of finishing specifics to be performed by the at least one finishing option installed on the printer and a second group of finishing specifics to be performed by the finishing device separately provided from the printer.

17. (Previously Presented) The print server as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a transmitting section that transmits information on the first group of specifics to the printer.

18. (Previously Presented) The print server as claimed in claim 17, wherein information on second group of the specifics is also sent to the printer.

19. (Previously Presented) The print server as claimed in claim 18, wherein the information on the second group of specifics is sent to the printer in a form of data to be printed by the printer.

20. (Previously Presented) The print server as claimed in claim 19, wherein the form of data complies with a page description language.

21. (Previously Presented) The print server as claimed in claim 19, wherein the finishing device is an off-line finishing device that is disconnected from the client, the print server, and the printer.

22. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising:

an on-line client;

a print server;

an on-line printer having at least one first finishing feature; and

a finishing device having at least one second finishing feature;

wherein the print server includes:

a first memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and of the finishing device, as well as information regarding the first and second finishing features;

a receiver for receiving from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics to be executed;

a sorter for, based on the information regarding the specifications and the first and second finishing features that is stored in the first memory, separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiver into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the finishing device;

a setting unit for setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated by the sorter and assigned to the on-line printer; and

a creating unit for creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated by the sorter and assigned to the finishing device.

23. (Previously Presented) A printing system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the print server further includes a transmitter for transmitting to the on-line printer the data pertaining to the finishing device job ticket created by the creating unit so as to print the finishing device job ticket.

24. (Previously Presented) A print server to be used in a printing system including an on-line client; a print server; an on-line printer having at least one first finishing feature; and a finishing device having at least one second finishing feature;

the print server comprising:

a first memory for storing specifications of the on-line printer and of the finishing device as well as information regarding the first and second finishing features;

a receiver for receiving from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics for printing to be executed;

a sorter for, based on the information regarding the specifications and finishing features that is stored in the first memory, separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiver into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the finishing device;

a setter for setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated by the sorter and assigned to the on-line printer; and

a creating unit for creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated by the sorter and assigned to the finishing device.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a computer program to be used in a printing system which includes an on-line client; a print server; an on-line printer having at least one first finishing feature; and a finishing device having at least one second finishing feature, the computer program causing a computer to execute processing comprising the steps of:

receiving the job ticket from the client;

separating the finishing specifics included in the received job ticket into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the finishing device, based on information regarding specifications and installed options of the on-line printer and the first and second finishing features that is stored in a first memory;

setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated and assigned to the on-line printer; and

creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated and assigned to the finishing device.

26. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising:

an on-line client;

a print server;

an on-line printer having at least one first finishing feature; and

a finishing device having at least one second finishing feature;

wherein the print server includes:

a receiver for receiving from the client data pertaining to a job ticket that includes at least finishing specifics to be executed;

a sorter for, based on information regarding the first and second finishing features, separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiver into those to be performed by the on-line printer and those to be performed by the finishing device;

a setting unit for setting, in the on-line printer, the parameters for the finishing specifics as separated by the sorter and assigned to the on-line printer; and

a creating unit for creating data for a finishing device job ticket that includes the finishing specifics separated by the sorter and assigned to the finishing device.

27. (New) A printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the on-line printer is capable of performing finishing procedures and the off-line finishing device is not connected to the on-line printer or the on-line print server.